<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>

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VA IQ Task number: 7194963
(18 January 2012/3:00pm)
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<u>XML Schema:</u> In October 2011, ED VLER hosted an XML Schema Lockdown meeting to reach agreement across VA organizations regarding information exchange.

Since the meeting, ED VLER has made significant progress towards establishing methodology, specifications, and standard resources for the exchange of VLER data, as described more fully in the attached INFO PAPER.

<u>ACTION REQUIRED:</u> None; informational.

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XML Schema Way Forward

Background: In October 2011, ED VLER hosted an XML Schema Lockdown, in collaboration with DCIO (ASD), and ADCIO for Development Management, attended by VHA, VBA, NCA, OIT, IPO, and DoD. As a result, ED VLER has taken the following actions:

- The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), a methodology and framework supported by the Federal government for common data exchange, was chosen as the standard mechanism to enable VLER
- A VLER Information Collection Hierarchy (an organized set of Veteran-centric subject areas or viewpoints) has been created and approved
- The VLER team created a VLER XML Schema Style Guide to provide standard resources and specifications for information exchange developers
- As a proof of concept, the VLER team has created four XML Schemas and related NIEM packages that have been tested against the NIEM validation tool, validating the styles and methodology
- The four XML schemas have been successfully used for document validation in a test instance of the VLER Data Access Service (DAS)

Way Forward: ED VLER will staff a VLER XML Schema Directive Executive Decision Memorandum (EDM) by Friday, January 20, 2012 with the following content:

- NIEM will be named as the standard for methodology and style for all VLER information exchanges
- Responsibilities for VLER data producers, VLER data consumers, and VLER hierarchy stewards will be defined
- A VLER Information Collection Hierarchy will be established, with instructions for hierarchy stewards to respond within 30 days of EDM signature with associated data producers and consumers, data services, and schedules
- A centralized VLER schema repository will be established for coordination and ongoing validation of XML payloads

ED VLER will provide a centralized function for training and communications, conformance, validity, and maintenance of NIEM products for the development of over 200 schemas.

A follow-up lockdown to communicate results will be scheduled by the end of February.